

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany  
SUBJECT Military Activities in the Stendal Area  
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REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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report on the Stendal area which gives information under the following headings: (1) Sonderbaubüro Stendal -- Reorganization, (2) Stendal Airfield, (3) Stendal-Airfield Barracks, (4) Stendal-Hindenburg Kaserne, (5) Stendal-Tauentzien Kaserne, (6) Boergitz, (7) Jaevenitz, (8) Rathenow/Moegelin, (9) Tangermünde, (10) Haemerten, (11) Gardelegen, Remonte Schule Kaserne, (12) Rathenow, and (13) Salzwedel.

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STATE	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	ARC											
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

**SECRET**EAST GERMANYMILITARY/AIRSTENDAL Area Miscellaneous (up to 13 Apr 56)1. SONDERBAUBURO STENDAL - Re-organisation

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Formerly subordinate to the DDR Ministry for Reconstruction, the SONDERBAUBUROS have since mid-March 56 been placed under the Ministry for National Defence. SBBs are now controlled by General MIRKEL, the General i/c Rear Services. His subordinate is Col. BRUCKNER, who is responsible for "Sonderbauwesen", and therefore the direct superior of SELBMANN, the new head of ZSBB, POTSDAM (replacing NEUMANN).

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There has been no reorganisation of SBB STENDAL. A newly appointed Bauleiter is Dipl. Ing. LEMSER, (fnü), formerly employed at the LEUNA works. The officer i/c KETSCH, STENDAL, Col. SEREBRESSIKOV has been posted to FURSTENBERG/HADEL. He has been replaced at STENDAL by another Col. or Lt. Col. (name not available).

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2. STENDAL AIRFIELD

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- (a) Excavation work on the new project has made very little progress to date. The airfield rail spur has been repaired over its full length (see our C/02/3609 of 19 December 55) and a small gauge railway is being laid for the ground levelling and sub-soil removal. [redacted] About 180 employees of Ing. Tiefbau, BRANDENBURG are quartered in a section of the NEUES LAGER, and about 60 prisoners are transported daily to and from STENDAL gaol.
- (b) SBB STENDAL is not yet in possession of the detailed construction plans ("Unterlagen") for the project. These are being prepared by the Abteilung Projektierung, H.Q. KVP, COTTBUS. Supervision of the construction is in the hands of KEO (Luft) at WERDER/HADEL. The local KETSCH at STENDAL is not concerned with the project.

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- (c) [redacted] the aircraft would remain on the airfield until April or May, when they were moving to SANGERHAUSEN. [redacted] part of the IL-10 complement - approx. 14 or 15 aircraft - had already left during the first week in April, before April 8th when [redacted] 44 BEASTS carrying out a formation flight. The aircraft were still there [redacted] on April 12th. Apart from the above mentioned BEASTS, there were also present on the airfield:-

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- 2 bi-planes (MULES)
- 3 high wing monoplanes
- 2 other aircraft similar to the old Focke-Wulf "Weihe"
- 3 helicopters have been seen on occasions on the airfield, but not by source 'de visu'.

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3. STENDAL-AIRFIELD BARRACKS

Apart from the SAF unit on the airfield, there appeared to be three other units or types of Soviet forces occupying the NORTH corner of the airfield. Judging from the equipment seen, these units are:-

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- (i) Artillery
- (ii) Engineers (Pioniere)
- (iii) Infantry

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- 2 -

[redacted]  
on occasion, sighted:-

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heavy mortars (estimated calibre 15 cm.)  
rocket launchers  
field guns (estimated calibre 12 - 15 cm.)

4. STENDAL-HINDENBERG Kaserne

In February 56 the A/m barracks appeared to be filled to capacity, estimated strength 2,500 men. A/Tk guns and mortars have been sighted [redacted] in addition to the signals unit. A radar count made at the beginning of April 56 showed:-

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2 CROSS FORK  
3 FISENET  
1 TOKEN  
1 BOX BRICK

[redacted]  
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5. STENDAL-TAUMENTZIEN Kaserne (PD 931 335)

The a/m barracks was occupied by an Engineer (Pionier) unit with an estimated strength of 1,500 men. Equipment seen there (Feb/March 56) included:-

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[redacted]  
Pontoons  
Tracked prime movers,  
Amphibians

At the end of March or early April, this Pionier unit moved out to the Wooded Camp (WALDLAGER) at BITTKAU. Equipment seen moving out included:-

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[redacted]  
Levelling machines (bull dozers)  
Digging machines (Grabenpflüge)  
Tracked Amphibians of pontoon shape, big enough to take  
a 2-axled lorry

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6. BORGITZ

No dimensions or other details are available of the Tank Repair Shop, or the two barrack blocks under construction on this Soviet camp

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[redacted] Work on these buildings is still only at the foundation stage. Foreseen date for completion is September, 1956. [redacted]

The camp was observed to be already occupied [redacted] in late January 1956. On that occasion were sighted:-

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25 - 30 T 34/85s  
4 - 5 T 54s  
20 - 25 SP guns, mainly SU-100, otherwise SU 76.

In the first week of April, [redacted] approximately 60 tanks or SP guns (all of T 34 type as far as could be seen) were located on and around the site. This figure, of course, does not include any tanks which were at the time in garages or otherwise under cover.

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[redacted]  
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7. JHVENITZ

7 transformers of a type previously provided for Radar Sites have been ordered (April 56) through SBB STENDAL for a Soviet unit (designation unknown) at JHVENITZ.

[redacted] this radar site will be on the heath SOUTH of the Huttet Camp [redacted]

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This camp, according to local gossip, will shortly be occupied by an Infantry unit from STENDAL and an A/Tk unit from GARDELEGEN.

8. RATHENOW/MOGELIN

SBB RATHENOW has commenced construction of 5 buildings on a Soviet occupied camp site SOUTH of RATHENOW [redacted]  
These new buildings are:-

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3 single storied barrack blocks, each to accommodate 150 men.

2 "Magazine" i.e. store-houses, or possibly ammunition stores.

[redacted] the Werkshallen of this former Arado works are in use by the Soviet unit as some kind of repair shop.

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9. TANGERMUNDE

In March 56 it was observed that the former FALLSCHIRMJAGER Kaserne [redacted] was occupied by a Soviet AA unit, whose strength is estimated by source as approximately 800 men. Over 30 85 mm AA guns have been observed here. Presumably some of these have been sent to occupy the site at HIMERTEN.

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10. HIMERTEN

The AA site [redacted] has been occupied by a Soviet unit. [redacted] It is assumed that the complement of the site is 6 medium/heavy AA guns, 6 LAA guns and approximately 120 men.

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11. GARDELEGEN. REMONTE SCHULE Kaserne

The REMONTE SCHULE Kaserne [redacted] is occupied by a Soviet Armoured Unit with T 34 tanks, as well as an Arty unit with both Field and A/Tk guns. The barracks [redacted] is occupied by KVP Grenzpolizei. The ammunition depot [redacted] consisted mainly of former airfield store buildings (Lagerhallen) of concrete and steel construction. [redacted]

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[redacted] Only Russians are employed there and these are from the REMONTE SCHULE Kaserne.

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12. RATHENOW

The former Kraftfahrer Kaserne is fully occupied by Soviet troops. Estimated strength 1500 - 1800 men. Equipment seen there includes light 37 mm and medium 85 mm AA guns and rocket launchers.

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13. SALZWEDEL

The former Flieger Kaserne barracks have been handed over to the KVP. The radar site [redacted] is still occupied with the equipment [redacted]

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